

## Press Release

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### **Early Reader Kits and Backpacks available for checkout at GCPL**

*Backpacks contain children's books, toys and games that correlate with school curriculum and standards*

**Geauga County – Feb. 7, 2017** – Emerging readers and their families have another reason to visit Geauga County Public Library. Did you know, in addition to our extensive collection of children's books that stimulate curiosity and reinforce the early logic and science concepts taught at schools, each GCPL branch houses a collection of Early Reader Kits and Backpacks designed for children from kindergarten through the second grade? These kits contain early reader fiction and nonfiction books that have been paired with a toy or game that reinforces the book's theme. Many of the Early Reader Backpacks have a science, logic or math component, complementing school curriculum.

More than that, they're fun! Early Reader Backpack 19, for example, is about castles. Children can read a nonfiction book about castles, enjoy a story about a knight and then challenge their logic and special reasoning skills with a game of Camelot Jr. These kits may be checked out for up to three weeks, and are funded by the Geauga County Library Foundation.

GCPL Youth Services librarians assembled 38 kits with school standards in mind. "Our libraries encourage a love of reading and learning," says Middlefield Library's Head of Youth Services and Assistant Manager Kara Fennell Walker. "Our work often overlaps with what schools are trying to accomplish. These kits provide extra resources to encourage children to expand and deepen their knowledge at an early age. Also, by offering bundled materials that combine reading with fun and activity, we're demonstrating that libraries are vital resources that offer a variety of tools to help people learn and grow."



GCPL is a logical lender for books and toys that promote learning. “Our patrons already know their library is the go-to resource for quality children’s books,” says Director Ed Worso. “We’re taking literacy to the next level by offering the ancillary resources that support our schools as they focus on meeting curriculum standards. We’re pairing books with toys and games that foster a love of reading and curiosity.”

**Early Reader Backpack example:**

**Books:** *Good Night, Good Knight* by Shelley Moore Thomas

*Look Inside a Castle* by Jenny Moss

**Toy:** Camelot Junior game

Each GCPL location has a binder that lists all the literacy boxes and photos displaying their contents. Patrons may also search the online catalog at [www.GeaugaLibrary.net](http://www.GeaugaLibrary.net) using the search term “early reader backpack” to find these kits.

**About the Geauga County Public Library**

The Geauga County Public Library includes four full-service branches in Bainbridge, Chardon, Chesterland (Geauga West) and Middlefield; two library stations housed in schools in Newbury and Thompson; two Bookmobiles that serve rural areas and community centers; a Lobby Stop vehicle; a car for homebound patrons; and an administrative center where technical services, computer services, facilities and administrative functions reside. GCPL has more than 750,000 books and ebooks. The collection also contains more than 100,000 audio / video items and 400 research databases available through its website. Beginning Feb. 6, 2017, GCPL will be a member of the Clevnet consortium, giving patrons access to more than 12 million items. Learn more about the Geauga County Public Library at the GCPL website, [GeaugaLibrary.net](http://GeaugaLibrary.net).



Caption: Geauga County Public Library offers Early Reader Kits and Backpacks that contain books, toys, puzzles and activities to support school curriculum for children from kindergarten through second grade. Kits are available at all GCPL locations and may be checked out for up to three weeks.